

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06798 071701Z
ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5907
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AMEMBASSY BONN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06798

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GW, BE, US
SUBJECT: SHAPE-EUCOM COLLOCATION

REF: BRUSSELS 6369

1. DURING COURSE MEETING APRIL 6 ON OTHER SUBJECTS, BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF NATO AFFAIRS, ERIK BAL, REFERRED TO HIS MARCH 31 NEGATIVE STATEMENTS TO US ON COLLOCATION PROPOSAL (REFTEL). HE SAID THAT HIS REPORT OF MARCH 31 MEETING HAD BEEN APPROVED BY HIGHEST LEVEL AUTHORITIES IN MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE; SAID THAT NO PROMISES COULD BE MADE REGARDING ANY CHANGES IN FUTURE; AND ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING POSSIBLE POLITICAL REACTIONS IN BELGIUM THAT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY ISSUES IF COLLOCATION QUESTION BECOMES PUBLIC.

2. BAL ADDED THAT COLLOCATION ISSUE COULD "BLOW UP IN OUR FACES"
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06798 071701Z

IF PUSHED TOWARD PUBLIC ARENA. REFERRING TO BREWING STORM BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY QUESTIONS AND TO ERW CONTROVERSY, HE SAID THAT WE COULD BE IN FOR A "HOT TIME" IN THE ALLIANCE DURING PERIOD BEFORE WASHINGTON SUMMIT AND THAT COLLOCATION ISSUE COULD RESULT IN ONE MORE PROBLEM THAT WE DID NOT NEED.

3. COMMENT. IT WAS CLEAR, ONCE AGAIN, THAT BELGIUM IS VERY ANXIOUS

THAT WE QUIETLY AGREE TO PUTTING COLLOCATION PROPOSAL ON SHELF
FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. CHAMBERS

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NNN

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